



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

ASSAM ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NOTIFICATION

The 10th December, 2024

Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering for Renewable Energy) Guidelines, 2024

REGULATIONS

No.AERC/872/2023/35.-In exercise of powers conferred under AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019 and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission hereby makes the following Guidelines for implementation of Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering framework under AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019.

1. Short title and commencement

- (1) These Guidelines may be called the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering for Renewable Energy) Guidelines, 2024.
- (2) These Guidelines shall come into force from the date of gazette notification.

2. Definition

In these Guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (1) **“Group Net Metering”** means an arrangement whereby surplus energy generated/injected from one or more Renewable Energy System or Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) charged through Renewable Energy System is exported to the grid through Net Meter and the exported energy is adjusted in one or more than one electricity service connection(s) of the same consumer located within the same distribution licensee’s area of supply;

- (2) **“Virtual Net Metering”** means an arrangement whereby entire energy generated/injected from a Renewable Energy System or Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) charged through Renewable Energy System is exported to the grid from renewable energy meter/ gross meter and the energy exported is adjusted in more than one electricity service connection(s) of participating consumers located within the same distribution licensee’s area of supply;

All other words and expressions used in these guidelines although not specifically defined herein shall have the meaning assigned to them in the AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019, as amended from time to time.

3. General & Applicability

- (1) Group Net Metering Framework shall be applicable for all consumers of Assam.
- (2) Virtual Net Metering Framework shall be applicable for consumers under domestic category and also consumers like Group Housing Societies, offices of Government /Local Authorities , Hospitals, Colleges, Schools, other Institutions run or managed by Charitable Institutions, non-profit Organizations/Trust, which are not covered under the category of domestic consumers and Renewable Energy Generators .
- (3) The annual generation of Renewable Energy System or Renewable Energy System with Battery Energy Storage System may be capped as per the normative CUF or PLF as decided by the Commission from time to time for the respective Renewable Energy Technology.
- (4) The distribution licensee shall carry out network augmentation as per the provisions of AERC Supply Code Regulations 2017 as amended from time to time and orders issued there under.
- (5) The distribution licensee shall facilitate and bear the capital expenditure on account of Service Line cum Development (SLD) and network augmentation towards Renewable Energy projects and the same shall be pass through in Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) for the schemes implemented subject to prudence check by the Commission.

Provided that, such waiver of SLD will be applicable on 11kV and below Network only.

Provided also that, such waiver of SLD will be effective till cumulative capacity doesn’t exceed 1 MW respectively for projects under Virtual Net Metering and Group Net Metering subject to the limitation of 10KW at individual level.

- (6) The capacity of the Renewable Energy System under Group Net Metering or Virtual Net Metering framework to be installed by any Renewable Energy. Generator shall not be less than 1 kilo Watt and more than 10 KW as per AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019 and any subsequent amendments thereof.

- (7) The Distribution licensee shall carry out detailed technical study for impact of renewable energy system installed under AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019, on distribution system in respect of grid voltage & frequency imbalance, harmonics and technical losses etc. in its area of supply and submit the report to the Commission within four months from the date of issue of these guidelines.

4. Available Capacity at Distribution Transformer level

Distribution Transformer level capacity to be offered for connecting Renewable Energy System for Group Net Metering or Virtual Net Metering shall be as per clause (6) of AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019 or any amendments thereof.

5. Procedure for Application and Registration

- (1) The consumer(s)/ applicant(s) shall submit an application for Group Net Metering or Virtual Net Metering in the format prescribed by the Distribution Licensee along with a nonrefundable fee of Rs.1000/- (Rupees one Thousand) to the concerned Distribution Licensee for feasibility analysis. The consumer can download the application form from the website of the distribution licensee.
- (2) The Distribution Licensees shall allow connectivity of Renewable Energy System with the distribution system and process the application under Group Net metering or Virtual Net Metering as per the provisions laid down in Annexure I of AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019 and the procedure for connectivity of Renewable Energy System for Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering shall be three tier process, which is as follows:
 - i) Feasibility Analysis,
 - ii) Registration
 - iii) Connection Agreement.

6. Connectivity, Standard and Safety

- (1) The right of the Distribution Licensee shall ensure the connectivity, standard and safety as per Regulation Clause 13 and 14 of AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019.

7. Metering Arrangement

- (1) Distribution Licensee shall install Renewable Energy meter(s) at Generation point(s), which shall facilitate remote meter reading as per AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019. The installation of solar meters shall be mandatory for all rooftop solar systems to ensure accurate energy measurement. All the meters installed at the RTS system shall comply with the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters), Regulations, 2006 and subsequent amendments thereof.

- (2) The cost of the Net Meter or Exim Meter, as applicable, which is capable of recording both import and export of electricity, shall mean the differential cost between the existing consumer meter, if removed, and such a new Meter is installed, to be borne by the consumer.

8. Procedure for billing and energy accounting under GROUP NET METERING Framework:-

- (1) The procedure for billing and Energy accounting of electricity connection(s) under Group Net Metering shall be as per clause 8.1 of AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019. APDCL reserves the right to adjust the exported energy according to peak and off-peak hours, as per prevailing regulations.
- (2) In addition to the provision of AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019, it is further provided that –
- a. Where the export of units during any billing period exceeds the import of units at the connection where Renewable Energy system is located, such surplus units injected into the grid shall be adjusted against the energy consumed in the monthly bill of service connection(s) in a sequence indicated in the priority list provided by the consumer. The sequence of priority for adjustment shall be deemed to begin with the service connection where the Renewable Energy System is located :
 - b. The priority list for adjustment of the balance surplus energy against other electricity connection(s) may be revised by the consumer once in every financial year with an advance notice of two months
 - c. The electricity consumption in any time block (e.g., peak hours, off-peak hours, etc.) shall be first compensated with the electricity generation in the similar time blocks in the same billing cycle of the consumer where the Renewable Energy System is located and any surplus units injected shall be adjusted against the energy consumed in the monthly bill of service connection(s) in a sequence indicated in the priority list provided by the consumer as if the surplus generation/ Energy Credits occurred during the off peak time block for Time of Day (ToD) consumers and normal time block for Non-ToD consumer.
 - d. Where during any billing period the export of units either in Non-ToD Tariff or ToD Tariff exceeds the import of units by the electricity service connection(s), such surplus units injected by the consumer shall be carried forward to the next billing period as energy credit and shown as energy exported by the consumer for adjustment against the energy consumed in subsequent billing periods within the settlement period in the sequence indicated in the priority list.
 - e. For the purpose of carry forward of surplus or set off of energy credits, the energy units shall be moderated as per the relevant ToD tariff applicable for the relevant year. Any surplus generation over consumption in any time block in a billing cycle

shall be accounted as if the surplus generation/ Energy Credits occurred during the off-peak time block for ToD consumers and normal time block for Non ToD consumer.

9. Procedure for billing and energy accounting under VIRTUAL NET METERING Framework:-

- (1) The procedure for billing and Energy accounting of electricity connection(s) under Group Net Metering shall be as per clause 8.1 of AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019. APDCL reserves the right to adjust the exported energy according to peak and off-peak hours, as per Ministry of Power Guiding/Helping Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Implementation of Virtual Net Metering and Group Net Metering Mechanism dated 23.02.2023."
- (2) In addition to the provision of AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019 , it is further provided that –
 - a. The energy generated from Renewable Energy System shall be credited in the monthly electricity bill of each participating consumer(s) as per the ratio of procurement from Renewable Energy System indicated under the agreement/ MoU entered by the consumer(s).
 - b. The consumer(s) shall have the option to change the share of credit of electricity from Renewable Energy System subject to the ratio of procurement from Renewable Energy System indicated under the agreement/ MoU entered by the consumer(s) once in the financial year with an advance notice of two months.
 - c. Where the service connection of any participating consumer(s) is disconnected due to any reason under any law for the time being in force, the unadjusted units/ remaining credits of that consumer shall be paid by the distribution licensee at the end of the financial year.
 - d. The electricity consumption in any time block (e.g., peak hours, off-peak hours, etc.) shall be first compensated with the electricity generation in the similar time blocks in the same billing cycle of the participating consumer(s). Any surplus generation over consumption in any time block in a billing cycle shall be accounted as if the surplus generation/ Energy Credits occurred during the off-peak time block.
 - e. Where the units credited during any billing period of any participating consumer exceeds the import of units by that consumer, such surplus credited units shall be carried forward in the next billing period as energy credits for adjustment against the energy consumed in subsequent billing periods within the settlement period of each participating consumer(s).

- f. For the purpose of carry forward of surplus or set off of energy credits, the energy units shall be moderated as per the relevant rebate/surcharge percentage of ToD tariff applicable for the relevant year.

10. Tariff at the end of financial year for surplus energy

- (1) Tariff at the end of financial year for surplus energy shall be the average power purchase cost (APPC) rate determined in the Tariff order of APDCL.

11. AGREEMENT:

An agreement will be signed between the eligible consumers and DISCOM regarding setting up of the system under Group Net Metering or Virtual Net Metering. An Agreement format is to be prepared by DISCOM and to be submitted within 60 days for Commissions approval.

12. Applicability of other charges

- (1) The Renewable Energy System commissioned till 31st march 2024 under AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019 shall be exempted during its useful life from payment of wheeling charge, banking charge, cross subsidy charge and any other charge(s), as decided by the Commission by an order.

13. Renewable Purchase Obligation

- (1) The quantum of electricity generated under AERC(Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019 shall qualify towards compliance of Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) for the distribution licensee if Renewable Energy Generator is not an obligated entity.

14. Eligibility to Participate under Renewable Energy Certificate Mechanism.

Eligibility to Participate under Renewable Energy Certificate Mechanism shall be as per AERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar PV System) Regulations, 2019.

15. Powers to relax

The Commission may by general or special order, for reasons to be recorded in writing may relax any of the provisions of these Guidelines on its own motion or on an application made before it by an interested person.

16. Powers to amend

The Commission may from time to time add, vary, alter, suspend, modify, amend or repeal any provision of these Guidelines.

17. Interpretation:

All issues arising in relation to interpretation of these regulations shall be determined by the Commission and the decision of the Commission on such issues shall be final.

ASHOK KUMAR BARMAN (RETD.),
Secretary,
Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission.